

Application No. 09/954,509

Reply to Office Action

***AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS***

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for administering a session-based concurrent user licensing agreement on a manufacturing/process control information portal such that a single logon during a session persists across multiple distinct resources to which access is provided via the a plant information portal siteserver, the method comprising the steps:

receiving, by the plant information portal server, an access request to for a resource for which a license is required;

invoking, based upon a code within a sequence of commands associated with the requested resource, a license manager associated with restricted resources associated with the plant information portal server, the license manager performing the, for the purpose of granting, if needed, one of potentially multiple available session-based concurrent licenses, a set of further steps of including:

first confirming that an identified source associated with the request does not possess needs a concurrent user license;

second confirming that a concurrent license is available to assign to the identified source; and

adding the identified source to a persistent list of session-based concurrent license users to which a session-based concurrent user license is assigned.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the second confirming step is based upon a maximum number of allowed concurrently licensed sessions claims under an established concurrent license agreement maintained by the license manager.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the invoking step is performed in response to an attempt by a particular identified user-session to access portal resources via a web page provided by the portal server.

4. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the first confirming step comprises determining that the identified source does not currently possess one of the session-based concurrent licenses.

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5. (New) The method of claim 4 wherein the first confirming step is carried out by comparing the identified source of the request with the list of session-based concurrent license users.

6. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:  
allocating a session-based concurrent license to the identified source; and  
adjusting a concurrent license counter value in accordance with the assigning step.

7. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein an allocated session-based concurrent license grant, as a result of the adding step, persists across requests from the identified source spanning multiple distinct resources accessed via the plant information portal server.

8. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising the license manager returning an indication of whether a session-based concurrent license has been granted to the identified source of the request.

9. (New) The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of:  
receiving, by an entity that initiated a license request call to the license manager during the invoking step, the indication; and  
determining, based upon the received indication, whether to grant the access request.

10. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the sequence of commands include a conditional test for invoking the license manager.

11. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein the conditional test relates to an origin of the access request.

12. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising, maintaining access via the portal server to a set of resources, wherein the invoking step is implemented with regard to the set of resources on an individual resource basis.

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13. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising persisting a previous session-based concurrent license grant when a requestor exits a resource associated with an initial grant of the session-based concurrent license.

14. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the code within a sequence of commands associated with the requested resource comprises a function call for invoking a service with which the license manager is associated.

15. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising maintaining a historical record of concurrent license usage information.

16. (New) The method of claim 15 further comprising displaying the concurrent license usage information via a query results interface.

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17. (New) Computer-readable media including computer executable instructions for facilitating administering a session-based concurrent user licensing agreement on a manufacturing/process control information portal such that a single logon during a session persists across multiple distinct resources to which access is provided via a plant information portal server, the computer executable instructions facilitating performing the steps of:

receiving, by the plant information portal server, an access request for a resource for which a license is required;

invoking, based upon a code within a sequence of commands associated with the requested resource, a license manager associated with restricted resources associated with the plant information portal server, the license manager performing, for the purpose of granting, if needed, one of potentially multiple available session-based concurrent licenses, a set of further steps including:

first confirming that an identified source associated with the request needs a concurrent license;

second confirming that a concurrent license is available to assign to the identified source; and

adding the identified source to a list of session-based concurrent license users to which a session-based concurrent license is assigned.

18. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 wherein the first confirming step comprises determining that the identified source does not currently possess one of the session-based concurrent licenses.

19. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating the license manager returning an indication of whether a session-based concurrent license has been granted to the identified source of the request.

20. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating maintaining a historical record of concurrent license usage information.